aperture appropriately sized to place around the catheter of a continent ostomy port. The body portion of the pad is sized and shaped for placement against a user's skin beneath a face plate of the ostomy port. The pad is formed of a soft, flexible material to thereby cushion and protect a user's skin from contact with the ostomy port face plate, wherein the pad body portion has a distal surface provided with a central indented region to thereby accommodate the distal portions of the continent ostomy port.--

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please add new figures 28 - 34, as shown on the enclosed sheets and as requested in the enclosed letter to Drafting Division.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original Claims 1 -37.

Please add claims: 38 - 69

The following claims are presented in final form. Please see the attached corresponding remarks supportive of these amendments.

Please add the following claims:

38. A pad for use with a continent ostomy port, the pad comprising a body portion having an internal wall defining an aperture appropriately sized to place around a stoma, the body portion of the pad being sized and shaped for placement against a user's skin beneath a face plate of an ostomy port, the pad being formed of a soft, flexible material to thereby cushion and protect the skin from contact with the ostomy port face plate, wherein the body portion of the pad

has a stepped configuration on a distal surface thereof, the stepped configuration consisting of at least two distinct levels.

39. The pad of claim 38, wherein the at least two distinct levels comprise a first level and a second level, the first level having a perimeter sized and shaped appropriately to readily fit within a perimeter of a face plate lip of a COP, and the second level extending parallel to the first level and having a perimeter extending beyond the perimeter of the first level, beneath the lip of the plate, to thereby protect the user's skin from friction irritation.

40. The pad of claim 38, wherein the pad is formed of a material which is readily disposable.

41. The pad of claim 38, wherein the pad is formed of a material that is capable of being facilely cleaned and reused.

42. The pad of claim 38, wherein the distal surface of the pad is coated with a thin, liquid impermeable skin to thereby trap wicked moisture within the pad.

43. A pad for use with a continent ostomy port, the pad comprising a body portion having an internal wall defining an aperture appropriately sized to place around a stoma, the body portion of the pad being sized and shaped for placement against a user's skin beneath a face plate of an ostomy port, the pad being formed of a soft, flexible material to thereby cushion and protect the skin from contact with the ostomy port face plate, wherein a distal surface of the pad is coated with a thin, liquid impermeable skin to thereby trap wicked moisture within the pad.

44. The pad of claim 43, and further wherein the liquid impermeable skin is permeable to

air, to thereby permit the pad area to breathe.

45. The pad of claim 43, wherein the pad is formed of a material which is readily disposable.

46. The pad of claim 43, wherein the pad is formed of material that is capable of being facilely cleaned and reused.

47. A pad for use with a continent ostomy port, the pad comprising a body portion defining an aperture appropriately sized to place around the catheter of a continent ostomy port, the body portion of the pad being sized and shaped for placement against a user's skin beneath a face plate of the ostomy port, the pad being formed of a soft, flexible material to thereby cushion and protect a user's skin from contact with the ostomy port face plate, wherein the pad body portion has a distal surface provided with a central indented region to thereby accommodate the distal portions of the continent ostomy port.

48. The pad of claim 47, wherein the central indented region of the distal surface of the pad body portion is generally cross-shaped.

49. The pad of claim 47, wherein the central indented region of the distal surface of the pad body portion has a substantially flat floor.

50. The pad of claim 47 wherein the central indented region of the distal surface of the pad body portion has a floor that defines the aperture for placement around a catheter of the continent ostomy port.

51. The pad of claim 47, wherein the distal surface of the pad is domed and the central

indented region includes two opposed channels extending radially away from the center of the pad, to thereby permit access to a finger grip on a distal end of the continent ostomy port.

52. The pad of claim 47, wherein the central indented region includes two opposed cut-out areas extending radially away from the center of the pad, to thereby accommodate structural features on a distal end of the continent ostomy port.

53. The pad of claim 47, wherein the pad includes a proximal surface having a depending ring disposed coaxially with the aperture in the pad and spacedly outwardly therefrom.

54. The pad of claim 53, and further comprising a channel formed between the depending ring and the perimeter of the pad.

55. The pad of claim 53, and further comprising a layer of adhesive on the proximal surface of the pad.

56. The pad of claim 47, wherein the pad is formed of a disposable material

57. The pad of claim 47, wherein the pad is formed of a material which can be cleaned and reused.

58. The pad of claim 47, wherein the body of the pad is generally oval.

59. The combination of a pad for use with a continent ostomy port and a shim, wherein the pad comprises a body portion defining an aperture appropriately sized to place around the catheter of a continent ostomy port, the body portion of the pad being sized and shaped for placement against a user's skin beneath a face plate of the ostomy port, the pad being formed of

a soft, flexible material to thereby cushion and protect a user's skin from contact with the ostomy port face plate, wherein the pad body portion has a distal surface provided with a central indented region to thereby accommodate distal portions of the continent ostomy port, wherein the pad includes a proximal surface; and a shim having a through hole positioned coaxially with the aperture in the pad on the side of the proximal surface of the pad.

60. The combination of claim 59, wherein the pad has a depending ring on the proximal surface thereof, the depending ring being disposed coaxially with the aperture in the pad and spaced radially outwardly therefrom to thereby provide a channel between the depending ring and the perimeter of the pad and the shim has an overall size and shape to permit the shim to fit snugly within the channel formed in the proximal surface of the pad.

61. The combination of claim 59, wherein the shim has an overall size and shape sufficient to permit the shim to hold the pad away from the user's skin.

62. The combination of claim 59, and further comprising a layer of adhesive on the proximal surface of the pad.

63. The combination of claim 59, wherein the perimeter of the pad is substantially oval.

64. The combination of claim 59, wherein the body of the pad is generally domed.

65. The combination of claim 59, wherein the distal surface of the pad is coated with a thin, liquid impermeable skin to thereby trap wicked moisture within the pad.

66. The combination of claim 59, and further comprising a layer of adhesive on at least one of the distal side and the proximal side of the shim.

67. A method for protecting the skin of a user around a stoma of the user, comprising:

attaching a pad around a continent ostomy port, the pad having a body portion defining an aperture appropriately sized to place around a catheter of the continent ostomy port, and a distal surface provided with a central indented region to thereby accommodate distal portions of the continent ostomy port; and

positioning the pad beneath a face plate of the ostomy port against the user's skin for cushioning an protecting the user's skin from contact with the ostomy face plate.

68. The method of claim 67, and further comprising the step of providing a shim having a through-hole and positioning the shim so that the through-hole aligns with the aperture in the pad.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein the pad includes a proximal surface having a depending ring disposed coaxially with the aperture in the pad and spacedly outwardly therefrom and a channel formed between the depending ring and the perimeter of the pad, and the method further comprises disposing the shim snugly within the channel formed in the proximal surface of the pad between the depending ring and the perimeter of the pad.